

The Veterans Voice

WINTER 2004



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New Hampshire Veterans Home Celebrates Opening of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit

The New Hampshire Veterans Home celebrated the opening of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit on Saturday, October 18, 2003. Honored guests and speakers who attended the ceremony included Congressman Charlie Bass, Congressman Jeb Bradley, Governor Craig Benson, Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton and Executive Councilor Ruth Griffin.

The Life Enhancement Dementia Unit is a state of the art facility dedicated to addressing the unique needs of Residents with Alzheimer's disease and other memory impairment disorders that are collectively referred to as dementia. The facility addition has been designed with a focus on the individual and collective needs of Residents in equivalent stages of dementia. The 100 - bed addition is divided into small, independent neighborhoods ranging in size from fourteen to twenty-two beds per unit. The neighborhood concept will provide our Residents with the highest level of safety, familiarity and activity while ensuring that their long-term health care needs are fully addressed. *(Continued on page 2)*



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs presented a check for \$7,150,000 during the Opening Celebration. Pictured above from left to right are Congressman Jeb Bradley, Rich Lougee, John Smart, Veterans Liaisons, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Griffin Dalianis, Governor Craig Benson and Congressman Charlie Bass

New Hampshire Veterans Home Celebrates Opening of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit

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Commandant Barry E. Conway commented, "We are very excited about the facility addition and its ability to enhance the overall quality of life care that NHVH proudly provides to Granite State veterans. NHVH will be a 250-bed long-term care facility capable of providing a continuity of care for the physical, emotional and cognitive changes that our Residents experience as part of the overall aging process."

Construction of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit began in April 2002. The project is part of the State Home Construction Program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs contributed \$7,150,000 of the total project cost of \$11,900,000. The State of New Hampshire contributed the remaining \$4,750,000.

Following the completion of construction in October 2003, NHVH staff members de-

voted several weeks to arranging furniture deliveries, ordering supplies and relocating offices. In addition to these preparations, NHVH has been actively working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to complete the process of review under the requirements of the State Home Construction Program. The Department of Veterans Affairs has now determined that the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit is in compliance with all VA standards.

On February 2, 2004, NHVH will begin expanding its long-term care services to a total of 250 veterans of the Granite State. Our Admissions Coordinators are continuing to assist veterans and their families and will be contacting them individually to finalize the transition process. To inquire about admissions, please contact Ellen Douville at 527-4846 or Kris Day at 527-4843.

Upcoming Events

We have a full calendar of events planned for 2004. We hope that you will join us for one or more of the following occasions. There are numerous opportunities for you to become involved as we honor our veterans, celebrate the holidays, and participate in recreational activities. The following dates are subject to change, so please call ahead if you plan to attend one of the following events or if you or your organization would like to become involved in sponsoring an event or outing. We look forward to seeing you.

February 2004

On February 12, 2004, we will welcome members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Auxiliary for a Special Coffee Social Event in honor of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The celebration begins at 10:15 a.m. in the main dining room. On the afternoon of February 12th, we will host our annual St. Valentine's Day Dance and crown our Resident King and Queen.

March 2004

During the month of March, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a special coffee social featuring entertainment by Peter O'K on March 16th followed by the Annual St. Patrick's Day Pa-

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Welcome to Our Home!

The following Residents joined the New Hampshire Veterans Home family as of the dates indicated below. Fellow Residents and Staff members extend a warm welcome to our new members.

Robert Robinette	05/05/03	Raymond Schoenweiss	08/26/03
Raoul Dubois	05/15/03	Anthony Galotta	09/18/03
Evelyn Landriani	06/12/03	Richard Stephen	09/29/03
Stanley Millett	06/17/03	Frederick Silvestri	10/23/03
Merland Herbert	06/19/03	Roger Mulaire	10/30/03
Peter Balon	06/23/03	Lionel Frenette	11/06/03
Verley Joscelyn	06/26/03	Clarence Ayotte	11/17/03
George Harris	06/30/03	Michael Stys	12/02/03
Warren Clattenburg	07/07/03	Pericles Anastos	12/03/03
Raymond Pavlicek	07/15/03	John Jaglowski	12/10/03
Theodore Olewnik	08/04/03	Lionel Lessard	12/15/03
Arthur Lamontagne	08/05/03	John Sullivan	12/16/03
Victor Dennis	08/11/03		
Ralph McGowan	08/19/03		

Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 2)

rade on the afternoon of March 17th. We invite you to join us as Residents and Staff team up to compete for prizes such as Best Float in the Parade and Most Creative Unit.

April 2004

We will have a series of events in honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 18-24). Stay tuned for details. The volunteer program at NHVH is always looking for new faces. If you would like to become involved by assisting with activities such as special events or Bingo, visiting with Residents during coffee socials, or accompanying Residents on outings, please contact Lisa Perry, Volunteer Coordinator at 603-527-4400 or via e-mail at lisa.perry@nhvh.nh.gov We have a variety of volunteer positions available.

Staff News and Events

NHVVH applauds the efforts of its dedicated staff. The following employee update covers the period from May 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003.

Welcome to our New Employees...

Employee Name	Position	Date of Hire
Joyce Boynton	Health Facilities Cleaner II	05/01/03
Susan Magoon	Nursing Assistant II	05/02/03
Darrell Scott Goss	Building Service Worker III	05/12/03
Ramona Blake	LPN	05/26/03
Arthur Maguire	Food Service Worker II	06/09/03
Kelly Audet	Nursing Assistant Trainee	06/13/03
Stephanie Tremblay	Nursing Assistant II	06/13/03
Barbara Sharpe	Nursing Assistant I	06/13/03
Ellen Gilpatric	Food Service Worker II	06/24/03
Helen Romano	Nursing Assistant II	06/27/03
Lori Rayno	Food Service Worker II	07/01/03
Norma T.W. Richardson	Human Resources Director	07/11/03
Linda Hamilton	RN II	07/14/03
Christine Morrill	Nursing Assistant Trainee	07/15/03
Eustacia Dukette	Nursing Assistant Trainee	08/04/03
Kelly McKinnon	Nursing Assistant I	08/18/03
Kristine Chauvette	Nursing Assistant II	08/18/03
Colleen Burns	RN II	08/18/03
Pauline LaPointe	Nursing Assistant II	08/18/03
Catherine Walton	Nursing Assistant II	09/01/03
Dorene Byrne	Nursing Assistant II	09/01/03
Margaret Perkins	Nursing Assistant II	09/01/03
Kathleen Paquette	Food Service Worker II	09/15/03
Lynne Sylvester	Nursing Assistant I	10/06/03

Staff News and Events

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Employee Name	Position	Date of Hire
Marian Chandler	Nursing Assistant II	10/20/03
Tamsen Wehncke	Food Service Worker II	11/14/03
April Whitham	LPN	11/17/03
Donna Tremblay	LPN	12/01/03
Adam St. Jacques	Food Service Worker II	12/15/03
Julie Barker	Nursing Assistant I	12/15/03
Michelle Young	Nursing Assistant III	12/15/03
Jo-Ann Griffin	Health Facilities Cleaner I	12/29/03



The Residents and Staff of NHVH extend their congratulations and best wishes to Connie Collins who retired from her position as Payroll Officer II on September 19, 2003. Staff members joined Connie's family and friends for a retirement party in her honor. Pictured during the celebration are Connie Collins (left) and Ellen Douville, Admissions Coordinator (right).

Supporter Spotlight Huckins Holiday Party

For the past five years, Dave and Nancy Huckins of Tilton have opened their hearts and home to the Residents and Staff of NHVH. The much anticipated annual holiday party took place on Wednesday, December 5, 2003. Nearly 30 Residents and Staff enjoyed a homemade luncheon while taking in the sights and sounds of the holidays as Christmas music played throughout the festively decorated interior. Dave and Nancy spent nearly three weeks decorating their home for the holidays!

Following a luncheon of appetizers, chowder, sandwiches and a variety of desserts, Residents and Staff socialized, discussed their holiday plans and admired Dave Huckins' collection of antique Chrysler automobiles. Both Nancy and Dave welcomed the opportunity to share their holiday spirit with both Residents and Staff.

In the afternoon, the Huckins spent a few hours preparing for phase two of the party when all NHVH staff members are invited to stop by for some holiday cheer at the end of the work day. Staff members appreciated the opportunity to gather with employees from all departments and to reflect on the happiness that the annual event brings to the Residents. The first holiday celebration was a small gathering of staff members. By the second year, these staff members along with Mary Beaudin and her mother Nancy Huckins had a plan to extend the party to include Residents. We extend our appreciation to the Huckins family for their generous hospitality over the years!



Dave Huckins, Mary Beaudin and Nancy Huckins take a break from the festivities during the Resident luncheon portion of the annual celebration.



NHVH Resident Clarence Ayotte welcomed the opportunity to explore a 1931 Chrysler Imperial Roadster. The model is one of only seven produced!



NHVH Resident Richard Stephens enjoyed socializing and admiring the numerous holiday decorations .

Fifth Annual “Remember our Veterans” Golf Tournament Raises over \$8,000 for the NHVH Benefit Fund

The Residents and Staff of the New Hampshire Veterans Home extend their gratitude to all players and sponsors who participated in the Fifth Annual “Remember Our Veterans” Golf Tournament on Friday, September 12, 2003 at Canterbury Woods Country Club. The tournament raised over \$8,000, which will be contributed to the “NHVH Benefit Fund” in support of quality of life programs for the men and women of the Granite State who bravely defended our freedoms. Such programs are focused on creating the most homelike atmosphere through a variety of activities, entertainment, outings and equipment.

The following sponsors contributed to the overall success of the event: Aavid Thermal Technologies, Inc., Central Paper Products Co., Dobles HUMMER, Ernst & Young, Harvey Construction, J. Jill Group, Providian National Bank, Quality Cash Market, Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green, Steenbeke & Sons and U.S. Senator Judd Gregg. We would also like to thank the following tournament contributors for their support: American Legion - Sweeney Post 2, AMVETS New Hampshire - Post 2, David Dionne, ERA - The Masiello Group, Franklin Savings Bank, Hampshire Fire Protection, Hannaford Supermarket, Ken and Dan’s Golf Country, James Marineau, Jr., Meridian Lodge 60 - Free and Accepted Masons, Lucien Normand, Ragged Mountain Golf Club, Thibault-Neun / Paquette-Neun Funeral Home, Robert Scott, John Sullivan, and Tilton Wal-Mart.

The tournament welcomed a total of 72 players for the scramble format event. Teams from throughout the Granite State enjoyed a beautiful summer morning of golf followed by an awards luncheon. An honorary captain who is currently a Resident at NHVH represented each team. The Conlon Transportation team of Rich Conlon, Nancy Chartrand, Ike Eastman and Mike Chartrand turned in an impressive 12 under par to take first place overall. NHVH Resident William Cundy, honorary captain of the Conlon Transportation team was awarded the “Green Sweater” to wear as a symbol of his team’s tournament victory!

NHVH is grateful for the support of all sponsors and players. A full listing of tournament players appears on page 13.



The Conlon Transportation team took first place overall at the Fifth Annual “Remember Our Veterans” Golf Tournament that was held on September 12, 2003 at Canterbury Woods Country Club. Pictured left to right are Rich Conlon, Nancy Chartrand, William Cundy, NHVH Resident and honorary team captain, Ike Eastman and Mike Chartrand.

Through the Years - The History of NHVH

With the completion of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit, the New Hampshire Veterans Home will begin expanding its long term care services to a total of 250 veterans of the Granite State. While the process of constructing this state of the art addition began a few years ago, the complete journey to this point in time started well over a century ago in 1888.

The United States Congress passed the legislation directing assistance in the establishment and of and operational costs for state operated Soldiers' Homes in 1888. The following year, Governor David H. Goodell established a Board of Managers whose purpose was to select an appropriate site for a Soldiers' Home that would care for Civil War veterans of the Granite State who were "unable to care for themselves by reason of wounds, disease, old age or other infirmities". After reviewing several locations throughout the state, the Board of Managers accepted an offer from one its members, Charles E. Tilton, to donate approximately 30 acres known as Savage Farm located in the Highlands section of Tilton.



New Hampshire Soldiers' Home featuring the main building in front and the farmhouse located in the back right of the photograph.

The main building was constructed and furnished in 1890. The Woman's Relief Corps raised \$5,000 and devoted several days to furnishing and preparing the Soldiers' Home for its dedication ceremony on December 3, 1890. The ceremony marked the opening of New Hampshire's first facility dedicated exclusively to the care of veterans. The Governor, Members of the Legislature, Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Woman's Relief Corps as well as numerous public officials and private citizens were in attendance. Guest speakers included Governor Goodell, former Governor Frederick Smith, Col. Daniel Hall, The Honorable Warren Daniel, Hiram Tuttle, Charles E. Tilton and Col. Frank Noyes. Rev. R. K. Ewer gave the invocation and music was provided by the Tilton Cornet Band under the direction of Major O.C. Wyatt.

The first veterans of the Civil War were admitted to the Soldiers' Home on December 6, 1890. Having distinguished themselves in the battle, these men of the Granite State became a corps of the Grand Army of the Republic and lived the remainder of their lives in the "fortress" of the Highlands. Captain Ervin H. Smith and his wife Clara served the Soldiers' Home from 1890 until 1907.

Over the next 115 years, the Soldiers' Home was adapted several times to accommodate both the increasing number of veterans and the complexity of their health care needs. An infirmary was added to the farmhouse in 1913. The Soldiers' Home continued to operate as both a farm and a residential health care facility until the 1950s. The farm ceased operations in the 1950s. In 1971, the farmhouse was demolished and a new 50-bed nursing care unit was constructed in place of the original infirmary. A second 50-bed addition was built in 1978, replacing the main building that was originally constructed in 1890.

Through the Years - The History of NHVH

The demand for long term care for veterans continued to increase throughout the 1980s. As a result, construction of a third 50 bed addition began in 1989 and was dedicated on November 3, 1990 - nearly 100 years to the day of the dedication ceremony for the original Soldiers' Home in 1890.

During the 1990s, an increasing number of NHVH Residents required specialized care for Alzheimer's and other related memory impairment disorders. Although the creation of a secure unit within the existing facility provided a temporary solution, NHVH staff members realized the need to begin planning for an increasing number of dementia Residents.

The completion of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit ("LEDU") in October 2003 is the result of years of experience, planning and research. Staff members from throughout NHVH provided input and actively participated in the design of the facility addition. Each of the six individual neighborhoods contains living, recreation, kitchen and dining facilities that will enable Residents to more fully participate in a variety of activities.



Rear view of the New Hampshire Veterans Home prior to the addition of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit in 2003



New Hampshire Veterans Home - 100-bed facility addition serving the needs of Residents with Alzheimer's and other related dementia. Photograph courtesy of NHVH Resident Phil Walton.

In Loving Memory

The New Hampshire Veterans Home extends its deepest condolences to the loved ones of the following Residents who recently passed away. We are grateful for the time that they spent with the NHVH family. Their presence will be greatly missed.

Name	Joined NHVH	Departed
Arthur Riel	07/30/02	05/11/03
Joseph McColligan	01/12/99	05/17/03
George Stebbins	04/03/96	06/07/03
Roland Bernard	05/10/01	06/10/03
John Goodrich	01/16/03	06/11/03
John Spinney	06/13/02	06/20/03
Herman Skinner	09/22/94	06/29/03
William Ernie	11/01/00	07/10/03
Frank Richards	08/11/98	07/13/03
Raymond Lozeau	06/06/00	08/03/03
Ida Stevens	12/12/96	08/16/03
Hugh Dowling	01/04/96	08/18/03
Halsey Dod	06/05/02	08/26/03
Raymond Little	10/06/99	08/30/03
Clinton Cole	07/11/02	08/31/03
Albert Kuchinski	06/29/93	09/09/03
Basil Babcock	09/05/95	09/10/03
Robert Skeldon	09/13/99	09/24/03
Charles Johnston	03/06/03	10/06/03
George Strickland	06/07/01	11/21/03

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In Loving Memory

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Name	Joined NHVH	Departed
Chester Ladow	09/16/03	11/25/03
John Roche	10/21/02	11/26/03
Winthrop Wells	03/29/01	11/30/03
Albert Nazer	05/18/93	12/17/03
John Gibbons	08/09/99	12/25/03
Bernard Tarrant	12/08/03	12/25/03
Samuel Hall	07/21/03	12/27/03



The New Hampshire State Flag flies at half-mast in honor of departed Residents at NHVH. Photograph courtesy of NHVH Resident Phil Walton

Then and Now - A poem by NHVH Resident Charles R. Safford

I have lost me

There are a lot of windows here
for me to look outside.
I see the people in this room so very clear,
but who are they? I know not, I must confide.

Why am I here and where am I?
People in white always put me before this scene
and I spend the time watching a little fly
while I ponder if my clothes are blue or green.

Did my children visit yesterday?
Was it the day before?
I hope they did, I miss them today.
I can't remember, my mind seems somewhat sore.

As each day passes and weeks turn into months,
it becomes much harder to do
a simple thing. I feel like a dunce.
I wonder, who am I? Who?

I used to eat all by myself
and enjoy the pleasant taste of it.
Now myself is upon a shelf
and I don't even notice the waste of it.

Once I accomplished real good things,
followed my dreams,
fathered my family, with love that brings
togetherness found by no other means.

Something happened, I know not why,
but here I am lonely and sad.
I wish I knew as I quietly cry
when I hear that woman say hello, Dad.

Confusion ends when life is over.
Peace arrives when that day comes
and I am laid amidst the clover
With loving care from daughters and sons.

Dedicated in honest affection to my good friends in any dementia facility anywhere.

Fifth Annual “Remember Our Veterans” Golf Tournament

Our thanks to the following players for their participation in the Fifth Annual “Remember Our Veterans” Golf Tournament:

Conlon Transportation (1st place): Rich Conlon, Ike Eastman, Nancy Chartrand and Mike Chartrand, **BAE Systems (2nd place):** Matthew Vaughan, Jeff Rose, Taylor Caswell and Henry Veilleux, **Aavid Thermal Technologies, Inc. (3rd place):** Bart Patel, John Mitchell, Peter Christie and John Sullivan, **American Legion - Sweeney Post Team A:** Charlie Leveille, Brendan Leveille, Don Small and Jack Neylon, **American Legion Sweeney Post Team B:** Harold Jennings, James Murphy, John O’Malley and Edward Hoey, **Centurion Corporation:** Jim Damren, Gary Neil, John Hochreiter and Pete Mosely, **Team Dall:** Jim Dall, Dick Gauthier, Tom Heath and Ed Perry, **Team Fazzina:** Dave Fazzina, Gary Smolen, John Michniewicz and Kris Hillson, **Team Marineau:** James Marineau, Walter Strauch, George Sheldon and Philip Garon, **Team Mulkern:** Dave Mulkern, Carl Metcalf, Rich Rossi and Scott Parsons, **Team Nason:** John Nason, Bob Frost and Peter Wildes, **RadQual, LLC:** Keith Allberg, Frank Buck, Dennis Navin and Paul McNeely, **VFW Post 1631 Red Team:** Jim Yannekis, Rob Chartier, Frank Harper and Gordon Hemphill, **VFW Post 1631 Blue Team:** Dean Mahan, Steve Beauchesne, Roger Mulligan and Billy Joe Floyd, **VFW Post 1698 Red Team:** Joanne Mercier, Phil Mercier, Roy Jordan and James Horman, **VFW Post 1698 Blue Team:** Sally Sokul, Paul Gordon, Bert Deshaies and Bob Gilman, **Vetlink:** Bob Jones, Garvin Eastman, Christopher Boothby and Lynn Fleury, **Team Weigle:** Luke Weigle, Jim Weigle, Robert Deshaies and Robert Wines.

Board of Managers

The Residents and Staff of the New Hampshire Veterans Home thank the following members of the Board of Managers for their dedicated service and support:

<i>Joseph Vitale, Chairman</i>	(Disabled American Veterans)
<i>David S. Roberts, Secretary</i>	(Marine Corps League)
<i>Donald R. Caron</i>	(Veterans of Foreign Wars)
<i>Elizabeth W. Castricone</i>	(VFW Auxiliary)
<i>Brian Matchett</i>	(Disabled American Veterans, Department Commander)
<i>Thomas R. Murphy</i>	(American Legion)
<i>Frank O’Neil</i>	(Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department Commander)
<i>Roland Patnode, Jr.</i>	(American Legion, Department Commander)
<i>Anthony J. Romano, Jr.</i>	(Marine Corps League)

Holidays and Celebrations



At left, NHVH Resident Leonard Hall displays his holiday spirit and entertains fellow residents and staff.



At right, MIDN 1/C Karin Wareing visits with NHVH Resident Robert Thomas while assisting Santa Claus with the delivery of holiday packages.



Members of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Gen. Simon G. Griffin Auxiliary #11 attended the opening celebration of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit and presented a framed photograph of the original Soldiers' Home. Pictured left to right are Arlene King, Past Department President, Secretary and Treasurer, Beverly Marston, Past President and Department Personal Aide, and Bonnie J. Tolman, Department President.

Faces and Places

The NHVH Resident Council elected a new President recently. In picture at right, Charlie Safford, the newly elected President, accepts the gavel from Robert Thomas who served as President of the NHVH Resident Council for the past eight years.



NHVH Resident Phil Walton performed the national anthem during the weekly POW/MIA Rally that took place during Bike Week 2003. Bob Jones, Coordinator - Northeast POW/MIA Network organized the event.

NHVH Resident Paul Walsh was recently recognized for his generous support of the children in Strafford County. Members of Community Partners - Behavioral Health and Developmental Services of Strafford County presented Mr. Walsh with a plaque for his long-term commitment to supporting Community Partners and the children that the organization serves. Pictured left to right are Maggie Pritchard, Paul Walsh and Brian Collins.



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Barry E. Conway, Commandant



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About the Home

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was initially established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. Today, the modern facility in its countryside setting is home to 150 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

As a professional health care provider, NHVH offers a full range of services including residential, medical/dental and nursing care as well as physical/occupational therapy, recreation, and dietetic and social services. Chapel services, exercise groups, arts and crafts, shopping trips, live entertainment and various community outings support residents'

quality of life. NHVH also offers inter-generational programs and animal-assisted recreational therapy. Dedicated staff members work in partnership with volunteers from surrounding communities and numerous veteran service organizations to enrich our residents' lives.

NHVH recently completed construction of a 100-bed Life Enhancement Dementia Unit that will serve the long-term care needs of veterans who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related-memory impairment disorders. The facility addition will enable NHVH to provide comprehensive long-term care services to a total of 250 Residents.

Additional information is available online at our website www.nh.gov/veterans